

REMARKS

This Response is submitted in reply to the Non-Final Office Action dated September 30, 2008. Claims 1, 2, 5, and 7-13 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 2, 5, and 7-13 are rejected. In response, Claims 1 and 7-9 have been amended and Claims 14-17 have been newly added. The amendment does not add new matter. In view of the amendment and/or for the reasons set forth below, Applicants respectfully submit the rejections are improper and should be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103

In the Office Action, Claims 1, 2, 5, and 7-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,732,148 to Estrada et al. ("Estrada"), U.S. Patent No. 6,772,195 to Hatlelid et al. ("Hatlelid"), U.S. Patent No. 6,446,112 to Bunny et al. ("Bunny"), and U.S. Patent No. 6,496,851 to Morris et al. ("Morris"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection for at least the reasons set forth below.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite, in part, "placing means for placing the list of spatial locations stored in the storage means at a position in a spatial location, wherein the position is designated by the first user." Claims 7-9 are similarly amended.

The amendment is fully supported by the specification. For example, Applicants disclose "the spatial location list can be placed at a position in which the user was present when the user issued the placement request. Instead, the spatial location list can be placed in space designated by the user." Published specification, paragraph [0092].

Applicants respectfully submit the cited prior art, even if properly combinable, fails to disclose or suggest, at a minimum, placing means for placing the list of spatial locations stored in the storage means at a position in a spatial location, wherein the position is designated by the first user. For example, the Patent Office relies on Estrada's Place Creation method to teach the placing means as claimed, wherein Estrada's pages are allegedly analogous to spatial locations. See Office Action, page 3, lines 1-4. However, Estrada fails to disclose or suggest a user being able to designate a position in a page (the alleged spatial location) to place a list of pages.

Furthermore, Applicants respectfully disagree that Estrada's pages are maintained in a list as the Patent Office states. See Office Action, page 3, lines 1-4. Applicants respectfully submit

Estrada teaches that folders are used to organize pages. See Estrada, column 17, line 13. “A folder 183 is a container used to store related pages (documents) or groupings of pages (documents).” Estrada, column 17, lines 55-56. Thus, Estrada’s Place Creation method fails to disclose or suggest a list of spatial locations, let alone placing that list.

Moreover, even if a folder is equivalent to a list of pages, a page cannot contain a folder (list of pages) because pages are lower than folders on the QuickPlace hierarchy. See Estrada, Fig. 7 and column 17, lines 10-48. Thus, Estrada still fails to teach placing the list of spatial locations at a position in a spatial location as is claimed and fully supported by the specification.

Applicants respectfully submit Hatlelid, Bunny, and Morris fail to cure the deficiencies of Estrada. Accordingly, Applicants request the obviousness rejection with respect to Claims 1, and 7-9 and Claims 2, 5, and 10-13 that depend thereon be reconsidered and the rejection withdrawn.

New Claims

Applicants further note that Claims 14-17 have been newly added. Claims 14-17 recite, in part, “wherein the list of spatial locations includes at least one spatial location that virtually represents an area owned by a user other than the first user.” The amendment is fully supported by the specification. For example, Applicants disclose “[i]f the user who is in a room owned by another user or predetermined space in the virtual space finds the spatial location favorable or pleasant, the user wants to record that spatial location. In step S31, the user presses the location registration button” and the spatial location is added to the list of spatial locations. See published speciation, paragraphs [0076]-[0079].

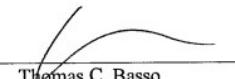
Applicants respectfully submit the subject matter as defined in the newly added claims is patentable over the cited art of record for at least the same reasons as discussed above, and for the additional patentable elements recited therein. For example, even if the pages created during Estrada’s Place Creation method are maintained in a list as the Patent Office alleges, all the pages within the alleged list are located within the QuickPlace created/owned by the user. See, Estrada, column 18, lines 14-35. Thus, the alleged list of pages fails to include at least one page not owned by the user who created the QuickPlace.

For the forgoing reason, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance and earnestly solicit reconsideration of the same.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge deposit account 02-1818 for any fees which are due and owing. If such a withdrawal is made, please indicate the Attorney Docket No. 112857-300 on the account statement.

Respectfully submitted,
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